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**Summary Data  
from the Consumer Price  
Index News Release  
March 2003**

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group (1982=84=100, unless otherwise noted)

Expenditure category	CPI-U				CPI-W			
	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally	percent change from-	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally	percent change from-
	Index	Mar. 2003	Mar. 2003		Index	Mar. 2003	Mar. 2003	
All items (1982=84=100)	184.2	184.2	184.2	0.3	180.3	180.3	180.3	0.5
Food and beverages	179.2	179.2	179.2	-2	178.5	178.5	178.5	-2
Food at home	177.7	177.7	177.7	-1	177.9	177.9	177.9	-1
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	202.1	202.1	202.1	-4	202.1	202.1	202.1	-3
Dairy and related products	164.8	164.8	164.8	-1	164.8	164.8	164.8	-1
Fruits and vegetables	167.1	167.1	167.1	-1	166.7	166.7	166.7	-2
Nonalcoholic beverages and low-alcohol materials	223.4	223.4	223.4	-1	223.2	223.2	223.2	-2
Other food at home	160.3	160.3	160.3	-1	159.5	159.5	159.5	-3
Alcohol	182.4	182.4	182.4	-1	182.1	182.1	182.1	-1
Fast food and take-out	162.5	162.5	162.5	-1	162.1	162.1	162.1	-1
Other food from home	157.5	157.5	157.5	-1	157.7	157.7	157.7	-1
Other miscellaneous foods	178.4	178.4	178.4	-1	178.9	178.9	178.9	-1
Food away from home	110.1	110.1	110.1	-4	110.5	110.5	110.5	-4
Other food from home	181.6	181.6	181.6	-2	181.0	181.0	181.0	-2
Alcoholic beverages	128.4	128.4	128.4	-3	128.7	128.7	128.7	-2
Housing	184.2	184.2	184.2	-4	179.9	179.9	179.9	-4
Shelter	212.1	212.1	212.1	-2	205.9	205.9	205.9	-2
Rent of primary residence	204.1	204.1	204.1	-2	203.4	203.4	203.4	-2
Living away from home	119.7	119.7	119.7	-1	120.4	120.4	120.4	-1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence	215.9	215.9	215.9	-1	199.0	199.0	199.0	-1
Transit and household insurance	154.0	154.0	154.0	-1	153.0	153.0	153.0	-1
Public and utilities	154.5	154.5	154.5	4	153.4	153.4	153.4	4
Fuels	130.5	130.5	130.5	5	137.0	137.0	137.0	5
Gas (liquid) and electricity	149.8	149.8	149.8	9	147.9	147.9	147.9	7
Gas (liquid) and electricity	142.5	142.5	142.5	5	142.4	142.4	142.4	5
Household furnishings and operations	127.1	127.1	127.1	-5	122.0	122.0	122.0	-7
Apparel	123.4	123.4	123.4	-4	122.5	122.5	122.5	-2
Men's and boys' apparel	121.0	121.0	121.0	3	120.6	120.6	120.6	3
Women's and girls' apparel	121.2	121.2	121.2	-7	115.9	115.9	115.9	-5
Infants and toddlers' apparel	124.1	124.1	124.1	1	125.0	125.0	125.0	1
Footwear	119.8	119.8	119.8	-2	119.4	119.4	119.4	-2
Transportation	181.0	181.0	181.0	1	180.3	180.3	180.3	1
Private transportation	157.3	157.3	157.3	1	157.0	157.0	157.0	1
New and used motor vehicles	98.0	98.0	98.0	-1	98.0	98.0	98.0	-1
New vehicles	139.3	139.3	139.3	-1	140.4	140.4	140.4	-1
Used cars and trucks	100.5	100.5	100.5	-1	109.2	109.2	109.2	-1
Motor fuel	148.1	148.1	148.1	5	148.5	148.5	148.5	5
Gasoline (all types)	167.4	167.4	167.4	4	167.8	167.8	167.8	4
Motor vehicle parts and equipment	107.9	107.9	107.9	-3	107.2	107.2	107.2	-3
Motor vehicle maintenance and repair	194.3	194.3	194.3	1	194.0	194.0	194.0	1
Public transportation	204.1	204.1	204.1	1	202.0	202.0	202.0	-1
Medical care	294.2	294.2	294.2	-2	293.5	293.5	293.5	-2
Medical care commodities	261.4	261.4	261.4	-4	256.1	256.1	256.1	-4
Medical care services	302.4	302.4	302.4	-1	302.7	302.7	302.7	-1
Professional services	259.1	259.1	259.1	1	261.3	261.3	261.3	1
Hospital and related services	188.7	188.7	188.7	-2	185.3	185.3	185.3	-2
Recreation	107.4	107.4	107.4	-1	105.4	105.4	105.4	-1
Video and audio	103.7	103.7	103.7	-1	102.9	102.9	102.9	-1
Education and communication	109.4	109.4	109.4	-1	108.9	108.9	108.9	-1
Education	131.1	131.1	131.1	-1	131.0	131.0	131.0	-1
Educational books and supplies	333.2	333.2	333.2	-1	333.9	333.9	333.9	-1
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare	374.5	374.5	374.5	-1	380.2	380.2	380.2	-1
Communication	91.3	91.3	91.3	-7	92.0	92.0	92.0	-7
Information and information processing	89.5	89.5	89.5	-7	91.4	91.4	91.4	-7
Telephone services	99.7	99.7	99.7	-6	99.9	99.9	99.9	-6
Information and information processing other than telephone services	14.0	14.0	14.0	-4	17.4	17.4	17.4	-4
Personal computers and peripheral equipment	19.0	19.0	19.0	-5	18.4	18.4	18.4	-5
Other goods and services	297.3	297.3	297.3	-1	295.4	295.4	295.4	-1
Tobacco and smoking products	147.2	147.2	147.2	-1	146.1	146.1	146.1	-1
Personal care	177.2	177.2	177.2	-3	176.1	176.1	176.1	-3
Personal care products	183.3	183.3	183.3	-1	183.0	183.0	183.0	-1
Personal care services	191.7	191.7	191.7	-4	192.4	192.4	192.4	-4
Miscellaneous personal services	281.4	281.4	281.4	-4	281.1	281.1	281.1	-4
Commodity and service group								
Food and beverages	153.1	153.1	153.1	-7	154.0	154.0	154.0	-5
Food and beverages less food and beverages	179.2	179.2	179.2	-2	178.5	178.5	178.5	-2
Commodities less food and beverages	139.0	139.0	139.0	-6	139.4	139.4	139.4	-7
Durable goods less food and beverages	184.5	184.5	184.5	-1	187.3	187.3	187.3	-1
Apparel	121.0	121.0	121.0	-1	120.6	120.6	120.6	-1
Durable goods less food, beverages, and apparel	177.0	177.0	177.0	-2	182.4	182.4	182.4	-2
Services	119.5	119.5	119.5	-1	119.0	119.0	119.0	-1
Rest of shelter	215.1	215.1	215.1	-4	211.2	211.2	211.2	-4
Transportation services	230.9	230.9	230.9	-3	199.7	199.7	199.7	-3
Other services	214.2	214.2	214.2	-1	213.9	213.9	213.9	-1
Special indices								
All items less food	185.2	185.2	185.2	-4	180.4	180.4	180.4	-6
All items less shelter	175.3	175.3	175.3	-5	172.9	172.9	172.9	-5
All items less medical care	178.4	178.4	178.4	-4	175.4	175.4	175.4	-4
Commodities less food	139.0	139.0	139.0	-6	141.4	141.4	141.4	-7
Durable goods less food	184.5	184.5	184.5	-1	187.3	187.3	187.3	-1
Durable goods less food and apparel	177.7	177.7	177.7	-2	182.4	182.4	182.4	-2
Durable goods less food, beverages, and apparel	187.2	187.2	187.2	-1	189.5	189.5	189.5	-1
Services less rest of shelter	224.4	224.4	224.4	-4	199.5	199.5	199.5	-4
Services less medical care services	207.4	207.4	207.4	-4	204.0	204.0	204.0	-4
Energy	142.4	142.4	142.4	4	142.2	142.2	142.2	4
All items less energy	185.2	185.2	185.2	-4	180.4	180.4	180.4	-6
All items less food and energy	175.0	175.0	175.0	-5	172.9	172.9	172.9	-5
Commodities less food and energy	139.0	139.0	139.0	-6	141.4	141.4	141.4	-7
Energy commodities	142.4	142.4	142.4	4	142.2	142.2	142.2	4
Services less energy	150.1	150.1	150.1	-4	150.0	150.0	150.0	-4
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar	222.4	222.4	222.4	-2	218.4	218.4	218.4	-1
(1982=84=100)	1.000	1.000	1.000	-	1.000	1.000	1.000	-
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947=81=100)	1.000	1.000	1.000	-	1.000	1.000	1.000	-

1 Not seasonally adjusted.

2 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

3 This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item system index series converted to a geometric means estimator 1/ January, 1999.

4 U-population index on a December 1982=100 base.

5 W-population index on a December 1984=100 base.

6 Seasonally adjusted indexes for Communication are now available for January 1998 through January 2003.

7 Indexes on a December 1988=100 base.

8 Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): Selected areas, all items index

(1982=100, unless otherwise noted)

Area	CPI-U				CPI-W			
	Index			Percent change to Mar. 2003 from-	Index			Percent change to Mar. 2003 from-
	Jan. 2003	Feb. 2003	Mar. 2003	Mar. 2002	Jan. 2003	Feb. 2003	Mar. 2003	Mar. 2002
U.S. city average .....	181.7	183.1	184.2	3.0	177.7	179.2	180.3	3.2
Region and area index								
Northwest urban .....	186.5	191.7	193.0	3.2	187.2	188.6	189.9	3.7
Size A - More than 1,500,000 .....	192.2	193.5	194.4	3.1	187.7	189.1	190.0	3.5
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 2 .....	113.1	113.0	113.0	3.4	113.2	114.0	115.2	4.0
Midwest urban .....	176.2	177.0	178.4	3.9	171.0	173.3	174.1	3.0
Size A - More than 1,500,000 .....	176.2	176.0	176.7	3.7	173.9	174.4	175.4	2.8
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 2 .....	112.0	112.0	112.8	3.1	111.7	112.5	113.1	3.1
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000) .....	170.7	172.5	173.0	3.5	168.4	170.1	170.6	3.5
South urban .....	175.1	176.4	177.5	3.1	172.5	173.9	175.0	3.2
Size A - More than 1,500,000 .....	176.7	178.3	179.1	3.3	174.0	175.7	176.5	3.5
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 2 .....	112.7	112.5	113.3	3.0	110.9	111.7	112.5	2.9
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000) .....	173.2	174.8	175.4	3.3	173.2	174.6	175.7	3.2
West urban .....	186.6	188.1	189.3	2.9	181.5	183.2	184.7	3.2
Size A - More than 1,500,000 .....	189.2	190.9	192.1	3.2	182.5	184.4	185.9	3.6
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 2 .....	113.0	114.5	115.4	2.3	113.2	114.0	115.1	2.4
Size classes								
A 3 .....	186.1	187.5	188.4	3.1	184.3	185.0	186.0	3.4
B/C 2 .....	112.3	113.1	114.0	3.0	111.0	112.4	113.5	3.1
D .....	174.6	176.0	176.9	3.1	173.2	174.7	175.6	3.2
Selected local areas 4								
Chicago-Gary-Evanston, IL-IN-WI .....	182.7	184.1	184.8	2.8	174.4	176.1	176.0	3.2
Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA .....	185.2	186.5	186.2	3.9	177.8	179.4	181.4	4.5
New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA .....	194.7	194.2	197.1	3.1	189.7	191.3	192.1	3.9
Boston-Worcester-Randolph, MA-NH-CT .....	199.0	-	202.0	4.2	199.3	-	202.3	4.7
Cleveland-Akron, OH .....	173.5	-	175.4	1.0	165.2	-	167.1	1.8
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX .....	174.0	-	176.0	2.7	173.3	-	174.5	3.0
Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV 5 .....	114.4	-	115.9	3.4	114.1	-	115.5	3.7
Atlanta, GA .....	-	180.7	-	-	-	179.1	-	-
Des Moines-Salt Lake City, UT .....	-	182.4	-	-	-	174.0	-	-
Houston-Galveston-Baytown, TX .....	-	184.0	-	-	-	181.7	-	-
Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL .....	-	180.3	-	-	-	178.0	-	-
Philadelphia-Elmington-Atlantic City, PA-DE-NJ-MD .....	-	184.4	-	-	-	180.9	-	-
San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA .....	-	197.7	-	-	-	193.7	-	-
Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA .....	-	191.3	-	-	-	184.2	-	-

1 Region defined as the four Census regions.

2 Indexes as a December 1994=100 base.

3 Indexes as a December 1994=100 base.

4 In addition, the following metropolitan areas are published semiannually and appear in Tables 34 and 39 of the January and July issues of the CPI Detailed Report: Anchorage, AK; Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-NY-IN; Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO; Honolulu, HI; Kansas City, MO-KS; Milwaukee-Racine, WI; Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI; Phoenix-Mesa, AZ; Pittsburgh, PA; Portland-Vancouver, OR-WA; St. Louis, MO-IL; San Diego, CA; Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL.

5 Indexes as a November 1994=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

NOTE: Local area indexes are byproducts of the national CPI program. Each local index has a smaller sample size than the national index and is, therefore, subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are similar. Therefore, the Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider adopting the national average CPI for use in their statistical claims.

## BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a market basket of goods and services. CPIs are published for two population groups: 1) The CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which covers 32 percent of the total population, and 2) the CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and the Chained CPI for All Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U), which each cover about 87 percent of the total population. While the CPI-U and CPI-W are considered final when released, the C-CPI-U is issued in preliminary form and is subject to two annual revisions. The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, transportation, medical care, and other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in 87 locations are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. *Indexes for different months are usually compared in relative terms. Thus, an index of 133.5 is 1.063 times higher than an index of 125.6 (133.5/125.6=1.063); in*

*other words, prices increased 6.3 percent.* The CPI is used as an indicator of inflation, a deflator of other economic series, and an escalator for income payments.

**More detail.** This news release from the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor provides summary data from the Consumer Price Index. The full release is available electronically on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/> at release time. If you have any questions about the CPI, please write to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes, Room 3615 PSB, Washington, DC 20212, or call (202) 691-7000. Full detail is available in the monthly periodical *CPI Detailed Report* for \$47 per year from New Orders, Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. This information will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339. For a recorded message of summary CPI data, call (202) 691-5200.

#### **CPI For All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)-Analysis**

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI-U rose 0.3 percent in March, following an increase of 0.6 percent in February. Energy costs again rose sharply--up 4.6 percent in March--and accounted for over 90 percent of the advance in the overall CPI-U. Within energy, the index for petroleum-based energy advanced 4.3 percent and the index for energy services increased 5.0 percent. The index for food rose 0.2 percent in March, following a 0.7

percent rise in February. The index for food at home, which increased 0.9 percent in February, rose 0.1 percent in March. The moderation was largely as the result of a markedly smaller increase in the index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs. The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged in March after increasing 0.1 percent in both January and February.

**NEXT CPI RELEASE: APRIL DATA ON MAY 16, 2003 8:30AM (EDT); TRY OUR CPI QUICKLINE: 202-691-6994**

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**01-13-05**